



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)

Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto:info@VeniceNC.org) Phone: 310-421-8627

## Venice Arbor Committee (VArb) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 19th, 2024

Meeting Time: 11:00 AM Pacific Time

Meeting Location: Gjusta, 320 Sunset Ave., Venice, CA

Contact: [sarahwauters123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwauters123@gmail.com),

### PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS:

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non- exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at the Venice Branch Library at our website: <https://www.venicenc.org/committees/viewCommittee/venice-arbor-committee> or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Sarah Wauters at [sarahwauters123@gmail.com](mailto:sarahwauters123@gmail.com).

### Public Posting of Agendas -

Venice Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Venice Branch of LA Public Library
- [www.NeighborhoodCouncilWebsite.com](http://www.NeighborhoodCouncilWebsite.com)
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System (ENS)

### (Brown Act Required Language): Notice to Paid Representatives -

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

Public comment will be limited to one comment for 60 seconds per item.

- Please do not raise your hand more than once per item
- Raise your hand at the start of the items you want to speak on. We will then close public comment and announce the last person to speak a few minutes after the start of the item.
- No ceding your time to others will be allowed
- The meeting is being video and audio recorded.
- The public will be able to listen and speak but their video will be disabled.

Sarah Wauters, Chair (SW)	x	Noel Johnston	x
Isabelle Duvivier	x	Barry Campion	
Janin Paine	x	Nico (ex-officio)	

1. Call to Order – June Minutes approved, 4-0-0
2. Roll Call
3. PUBLIC COMMENT - Andreas suggests a protected tree walk, where we can see protected species Elderberrys, Walnuts, Oaks etc.
4. Reports
  - a. Chair Report - Sarah Wauters – VNC motion passed for Centennial Park. SRW proposed a field trip to UCLA's botanical garden and tour with the Executive Director to find out about the design of the watershed.
  - b. Report from CFAC - Isabelle Duvivier - CFAC meeting included extended discussion on Children's Park in Elysian Park which was decimated by hired consultants bulldozing many trees in the Children's Park.
  - c. VVG Report – Noel Johnston - update on the turf replacement program. VVG continues to have concerns about watering. Discussion of overgrowth on oaks, witch's brooms, Noel will attempt to propagate them into dwarf trees. Noel states that we need to enlist neighbors on every block to help water trees. Peter and Noel are keeping an eye on the Venice median.
5. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Possible Change of Chairmanship and Meeting Times – All committee members encouraged SRW to remain in the position. There was no obvious replacement choice.
  - b. Messaging to Public about Watering Trees
    - i. Public messaging about watering trees and passing a VNC messaging motion to remind the public to assist in this effort of maintaining the canopy. We can mirror the California Urban



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Forestry Council. Per the recent message from CA Urban Forestry the Venice Neighborhood Council will message the public regarding the extreme heat across the state and the importance of once-a-month deep watering of parkway trees to promote and maintain a thriving urban tree canopy. Following passage of the motion, the VNC Board can then post it on their website and disseminate to the public via email and social media.

- ii. **Public comment** - Eric suggests we create a letter that we can distribute to mailboxes block by block and add a plea for block liaisons to organize neighbors to help in the effort.
  - iii. **Committee discussion** -
  - iv. **Motion** - **Per the the attached message from the California Urban Forestry Council, the Venice Neighborhood Council board supports messaging to the public through flyers, the VNC website or email to water the street trees outside one's home and in other public spaces throughout Venice.**
  - v. SRW motions, JP seconds, 4-0-0.
- c. Artificial Turf Restrictions – Andreas Kemke reports SB676 reversed the state's stand on synthetic grass. Puts it back to the city to pass legislation to permit or not permit it.
- i. **Presentation by Andreas Kemke re: artificial turf.** SB 676 has passed reversing stance on artificial turf, PFAs are detrimental to health. San Marino city temporarily banned artificial turf and synthetic grass citywide for 2 months and then extended through Sept of this year, they are researching and preparing a zoning ordinance.
  - ii. **Public comment**
  - iii. **Committee discussion** - Venice Arbor Committee will provide messaging language to the VNC for dissemination similar to the community impact statement from Pico Union and Mar Vista. LA Council has apparently moved the synthetic grass motion forward. Andreas will forward the statement and will look for links to Community Impact Statements. Mar Vista Community Council May 16 2024 supports the motion to transition away from synthetic turf, background information is also provided. Language as follows: The Mar Vista Community Council "supports the motion to transition away from the future use of synthetic turf or artificial grass." LA Council has moved the synthetic grass motion forward.
  - iv. **Motion:**

**The Venice Neighborhood Council board votes to support the Los Angeles City Council File #24-0602 in transitioning away from the future use of synthetic turf or artificial grass and incentivizing drought-friendly landscaping.**

**The artificial turf surface sheds microplastics and the runoff it causes can become contaminated with PFAS and pollute our drinking water and oceans.**

**Artificial turf cannot be recycled and will end up in the landfill, continuing to pollute the environment. In addition, it off-gasses ethylene and methane contributing to the climate crisis, unlike real grass and other plants.**

**Nothing lives in artificial turf. It also kills the soil and the living organisms in it, removing natural habitat.**

**It is safer and more cost effective to use grass for playing fields rather than substituting artificial turf.**



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**Motion by SRW, seconded by ID, vote 4-0-0.**

- d. Tree Celebration – Janin Paine wants to say that Janin and Luis have an idea to celebrate trees ideas bringing in December 21st? Janin will send the list of ideas. Not necessarily VVG would do it all. Get as many tree organizations as possible to join.

10. ADJOURNED – 1:00pm

#### THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

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